



## MEDIA ADVISORY

*For immediate release*

### **Former UK Premier Gordon Brown to speak on financial stability at United Nations gathering in Washington D.C.**

**Geneva, 19 May 2011** – Former UK Prime Minister and current Member of Parliament Gordon Brown will address global financial leaders during a United Nations meeting on financial stability and sustainability to take place in Washington D.C. this fall.

Mr Brown, widely respected as the global leader who rallied the world's financial policy-makers to respond collectively and with a sense of unified urgency to the financial crisis of September 2008, will speak on financial stability, systemic risk and sustainability.

“With the full effects of the crash yet to be played out, we need to return the world to the high water mark of global cooperation achieved at the London G20 summit. That degree of coordination must be the beginning and not the end of what we achieve,” the former UK PM and longtime Chancellor of the Exchequer explained.

“By kick-starting this engagement on issues of systemic risk and financial sustainability with the United Nations community, my hope is to contribute to defining the new kind of thinking and action that we must embrace to address the challenges of a global economy when climate change, resource scarcity, commodity price volatility and income inequality, amongst other ongoing concerns, will set the future context for our finance sector and global capital markets,” Mr Brown said.

The Washington D.C. meeting is positioned to channel financial services sector views into the June 2012 United Nations Sustainable Development summit that will gather world leaders in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 years after the original 1992 UN Rio Earth Summit.

On October 19, 2011, Mr. Brown will join the United Nations Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) Global Roundtable (GRT) to give the opening address. The meeting is a biannual, high-level conference that typically attracts a select group of 600 banking, insurance and investment leaders and global thinkers for an intensive, two-day dialogue on financial sustainability. Previously the meeting has convened in Cape Town, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro and Frankfurt.

Other confirmed speakers include Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Under Secretary General of the UN, as well as James Balsillie, co-CEO of telecommunications giant

Research in Motion (RIM). RIM is the firm behind the Blackberry, and Mr Balsillie is a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel for Global Sustainability.

The 2011 edition of the GRT will take place on 19 and 20 October in Washington D.C.

**Journalists wishing to cover the event can contact UNEP FI:** Sebastien Malo, UNEP FI communications, +41 22 917 8465/sebastien.malo[at]unep.org; Cecilia Serin, Global Roundtable coordinator, +41 22 917 8253/cecilia.serin[at]unep.org.

**Notes to Editors:** You can read more on the 2011 Global Roundtable at: <http://www.unepfi.org/washington>.

The **United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)** is a unique global partnership between the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the global financial sector. UNEP FI works closely with nearly 200 financial institutions who are Signatories to the UNEP FI Statements, and a range of partner organizations to develop and promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance. Through peer-to-peer networks, research and training, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote, and realize the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations.